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**Sent:** Saturday, October 8, 2022 10:57 PM  
**To:** DES SBCC  
**Cc:** Heidi Cody; Cathryn Chudy; Ruth Sawyer  
**Subject:** Residential Building Code changes

External Email

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October 8, 2022

Chairman Anthony Doan  
State Building Code Council

RE: Residential Building Code Amendments

Dear SBCC:

I am a parent and grandparent, and I am very sad that my generation has done so much to exacerbate climate change. According to the IPCC, we have very little time to stop an irreversible global warming trend.

I appreciate the steps our state has taken to help do its part to reduce global warming. Pursuant to RCW 19.27A.160, “residential and nonresidential construction permitted under the 2031 state energy code must achieve a seventy percent reduction in annual net energy consumption, using the adopted 2006 Washington state energy code as a baseline”. The statute further requires the SBCC to adopt state energy codes every three years that advance us incrementally toward the 70% reduction goal.

The proposed residential code amendments requiring new homes to use electricity for heating and cooling will help comply with the statutory requirements and move toward the state’s goals. Buildings contribute a significant portion of our state’s greenhouse gas emissions. By eliminating use of fossil fuels for heating and cooling, we can lower those emissions, and I hope, move closer to the IPCC’s reduction recommendations.

Studies have shown that all-electric homes are cheaper to build, operate and maintain. In my home we recently replaced old electric heat pumps with newer ones and we have achieved substantial reductions in our energy use and electric bills. Although our systems have backup electric resistance heat, we seldom have had to use it in the 26 years we have lived in this house. During last summer’s heat dome, we used the cooling system and maintained our house at a very comfortable temperature. Heat pumps work well!

Our city of Vancouver is moving toward adopting a very aggressive climate action plan. A state building code requiring all electric new residential buildings will help Vancouver meet its goals.

I support the proposed residential building code changes and encourage you to adopt them as written.

Thank you for your work to meet our state's goals and our obligations as citizens to reduce our GHG emissions.

s/

Peter Fels